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26119	7590	02/26/2009

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN LLP
121 S.W. SALMON STREET
SUITE 1600
PORTLAND, OR 97204

EXAMINER
MISLEH, JUSTIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,199	06/19/2003	Vladimir Sadovsky	3382-64490	7566

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS AND ADJUSTMENT OF DIGITAL IMAGES UPON ACQUISITION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	05/26/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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26119　　　7590　　　02/26/2009

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

	(Depositor's name)
	(Signature)
	(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,199	06/19/2003	Vladimir Sadovsky	3382-64490	7566

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS AND ADJUSTMENT OF DIGITAL IMAGES UPON ACQUISITION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	05/26/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
MISLEH, JUSTIN P	2622	348-207100

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE　　　　　　　　(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☐ Issue Fee

☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): **(Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Typed or printed name _____　　Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.　　OMB 0651-0033　　U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,199	06/19/2003	Vladimir Sadovsky	3382-64490	7566

			EXAMINER
26119	7590	02/26/2009	MISLEH, JUSTIN P

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN LLP
121 S.W. SALMON STREET
SUITE 1600
PORTLAND, OR 97204

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 479 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 479 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/600,199	SADOVSKY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JUSTIN P. MISLEH	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>Amendment filed 2 December 2008</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1, 3 – 16, 18, 20 – 23, 25, 28, 29, 31 – 34, 36 – 45, 47 – 49, 52 – 55 and 59 (now respectively renumbered 1 – 45)</u>.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the

           International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
    of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Gregory Maurer on Friday, 2 February 2009.

3.   The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS

        Please **replace** the latest claim listing with the following claim listing:

        "1.   A method performed by a target computer of automatically processing digital

images, the method comprising:

        passing a request to acquire a digital image file from an automatic image analysis and

adjustment service in the target computer to an external interface coupled to an image capture

device, wherein the image capture device is selected from the group consisting of: a digital

camera, a scanner, and a digital video camera;

        acquiring the digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer that

is separate from and connected to the image capture device by a connection selected from the

group consisting of a wired connection and a wireless connection, the target computer having an

application programming interface that facilitates transfer of digital image files from digital

image data source devices to the target computer, the application programming interface

comprising a member function configured to retrieve the digital image file from the image

capture device;

        at the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device,

analyzing image data from the digital image file; and

at the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device,
adjusting the image data from the digital image file based at least in part on the analysis of the
image data;

wherein the analyzing and the adjusting are performed automatically at the target
computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device, and wherein the
analyzing and the adjusting are initiated by the acquiring of the digital image file from the image
capture device to the target computer without further input from the user; and

wherein the image capture device comprises an image capture device housing, and
wherein the target computer comprises a computer housing that is separate from the image
capture device housing.

2.   (canceled)

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring is initiated at the image capture
device.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring is initiated at the target computer.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring is performed via wireless
communication.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the acquiring is performed via a network
connection.

7.   The method of claim 1 further comprising analyzing non-image information from
the digital image file;

wherein the adjusting is based at least in part on the analysis of the non-image
information.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the non-image information comprises one or more
of the following: flash information, focal length, shutter speed, camera model information,
aperture setting, date/time information.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the image data comprises pixel data for the image.

10.   The method of claim 1 further comprising generating image characteristic data
prior to adjusting the image data;

wherein the adjusting is based at least in part on the image characteristic data.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein the image characteristic data comprises image orientation data, and wherein the adjusting comprises adjusting orientation of the image based on the image orientation data.

12.   The method of claim 10 wherein the image characteristic data comprises one or more of the following: image orientation data, red-eye detection data, blur data, color balance data, exposure data, noise data.

13.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating metadata corresponding to the adjusting; and

storing the metadata corresponding to the adjusting in the digital image file;

wherein the storing facilitates preservation of an original version of the digital image.

14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the acquiring is performed in response to a request from a user-mode application, and further comprising:

providing the digital image file with the metadata to the user-mode application.

15.   The method of claim 1 wherein automatic performance of the analyzing and the adjusting is selectively enabled or disabled by a user.

16.   The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image file is a compressed digital image file.

17.   (canceled)

18.   The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image file is in an EXIF format.

19.   (canceled)

20.   The method of claim 1 wherein the acts are performed in an operating system environment as a feature of the operating system environment.

21.   The method of claim 20 wherein the operating system environment is a managed code environment.

22.   The method of claim 1 wherein the analyzing and the adjusting are performed in a background service of an operating system environment.

23.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing the adjusted image data on a storage device at the target computer.

24.   (canceled)

25.   A method performed by a target computer of automatically processing digital images the method comprising:

passing a request to acquire a first digital image file from an automatic image analysis and adjustment service in the target computer to an external interface coupled to an image capture device, wherein the image capture device is selected from the group consisting of: a digital camera, a scanner, and a digital video camera, and wherein the target computer is separate from and connected to the image capture device by a connection selected from the group consisting of a wired connection and a wireless connection;

responsive to the request, acquiring a first digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device;

responsive to the acquisition of the first digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer which is separate from and connected to the image capture device, analyzing image data from the first digital image file at the target computer;

initiated by the acquisition of the first digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer which is separate from and connected to the image capture device, and prior to receiving any user input relating to the analyzing, adjusting the image data from the first digital image file at the target computer based at least in part on the analysis of the image data; and

wherein the target computer has an application programming interface that allows transfer of digital image files from multiple different types of digital image data source devices to the target computer, the application programming interface comprising a member function configured to retrieve the first digital image file from the image capture device; and

wherein the image capture device comprises an image capture device housing, and wherein the target computer comprises a computer housing that is separate from the image capture device housing.

26.   (canceled)

27.   (canceled)

28.   A computer system comprising:

an external communication connection device at a target computer selected from the group consisting of a wired communication connection device and a wireless communication connection device;

an image acquisition application programming interface at the target computer for acquiring one or more digital image files containing one or more digital images from a digital image capture device coupled to the external communication connection device, wherein the digital image capture device is separate from and connected to the target computer, and is selected from the group consisting of: a digital camera, a scanner, and a digital video camera;

a memory at the target computer for storing the one or more acquired digital image data files containing the one or more acquired digital images;

an image analysis software module at the target computer for analyzing the one or more acquired digital images at image acquisition time;

an image adjustment software module at the target computer for adjusting the one or more acquired digital images at image acquisition time, wherein the adjusting is based at least in part on the analyzing, wherein the analyzing and the adjusting are initiated by the acquiring of the one or more digital image files containing one or more digital images from the digital image capture device which is separate from and connected to the target computer and occur prior to further user input; and

at least one processor at the target computer;

wherein the image analysis software module and the image adjustment software module are in an image acquisition service of an operating system of the target computer, and wherein the one or more digital image files are acquired by passing a request to acquire the one or more digital image files from the image acquisition service of the operating system of the target computer to the external communication connection device; and

wherein the digital image capture device comprises a digital image capture device housing, and wherein the target computer comprises a computer housing that is separate from the digital image capture device housing.

29.   The computer system of claim 28 further comprising an image output device for visually displaying digital images.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   The computer system of claim 28 further comprising:

an image decoder for decoding compressed digital image data; and

an image encoder for encoding adjusted digital image data.

32.   The computer system of claim 28 wherein the image adjustment software module comprises one or more processing filters for adjusting the one or more acquired digital images.

33.   The computer system of claim 28 wherein the image adjustment software module comprises an extensible software architecture operable to allow customization of the image adjustment software module, wherein the extensible software architecture comprises one or more processing filters for adjusting the one or more acquired digital images, wherein each of the one or more processing filters encapsulates an image adjustment function.

34.   The computer image acquisition system of claim 33 wherein the customization comprises adding, removing or reordering processing filters in the image adjustment software module.

35.   (canceled)

36.   One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a software system for automatically processing digital images in a target computer, the software system comprising:

code for passing a request to acquire an image data file from an automatic image analysis and adjustment service in the target computer to an external interface coupled to an image capture device which is separate from and connected to the target computer, wherein the image capture device is selected from the group consisting of: a digital camera, a scanner, and a digital video camera;

code for receiving, responsive to the request, a digital image file comprising a digital image from the image capture device that is separate from and connected to the target computer via a connection selected from the group consisting of a wired connection and a wireless connection, the receiving facilitated by an application programming interface that facilitates transfer of digital image files from digital image capture devices to the target computer, the application programming interface comprising a member function configured to retrieve the digital image file from the image capture device;

code for analyzing digital image data in the received digital image file, wherein the code for analyzing automatically analyzes the digital image data responsive to the received digital image file and without further user input; and

code for adjusting the digital image based on the automatic analysis of the digital image data, wherein the code for adjusting automatically adjusts the digital image data responsive to the automatic analysis without further user input;

wherein the image capture device comprises an image capture device housing, and wherein the target computer comprises a computer housing that is separate from the image capture device housing.

37.   The software system of claim 36 wherein transfer of the digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer is initiated by device event data originating at the image capture device.

38.   The software system of claim 36 wherein transfer of the digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer is initiated by a request originating at the target computer.

39.   The software system of claim 36 wherein the digital image file is received via wireless communication.

40.   The software system of claim 36 wherein the wired connection is a network connection.

41.   The software system of claim 36 wherein the code for analyzing further comprises code for analyzing non-image information from the received digital image file.

42.   The software system of claim 41 wherein the non-image information comprises one or more of the following: flash information, focal length, shutter speed, camera model information, aperture setting, date/time information.

43.   The software system of claim 36 wherein the image data comprises pixel data for the image.

44.   The software system of claim 36 further comprising code for generating image characteristic data prior to adjusting the image data.

45.   The software system of claim 44 wherein the image characteristic data comprises one or more of the following: image orientation data, red-eye detection data, blur data, color balance data, exposure data, noise data.

46.   (canceled)

47.   The software system of claim 36 further comprising code for selectively enabling or disabling the code for adjusting.

48.   The software system of claim 36 wherein the software system is implemented as a feature of an operating system environment.

49.   The software system of claim 48 wherein the operating system environment is a managed code environment.

50.   (canceled)

51.   (canceled)

52.   One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a software system providing automatic digital image processing functionality at a target computer, the software system comprising:

a customizable software architecture for adjusting digital image data at a target computer based on analysis performed at the target computer, wherein the adjusting and the analysis of the digital image data is responsive, without further user input, to acquisition of one or more files containing digital images by the target computer from an image capture device which is separate from and connected to the target computer by a connection selected from the group consisting of a wired connection and a wireless connection, wherein the customizable software architecture is capable of operably coupling one or more image adjustment modules encapsulating image adjustment functions to one or more image analysis modules;

wherein the functionality of the software system is capable of being customized by altering an arrangement of image adjustment modules operably coupled to the one or more image analysis modules;

wherein the acquisition is responsive to passing a request to acquire an image data file from the customizable software architecture for adjusting digital image data in the target computer to an external interface coupled to the image capture device, wherein the image capture

device is selected from the group consisting of: a digital camera, a scanner, and a digital video camera;

wherein the target computer has an application programming interface that facilitates transfer of digital image files from the image capture device to the target computer, the application programming interface comprising a member function configured to retrieve a digital image file from the image capture device; and

wherein the image capture device comprises an image capture device housing, and wherein the target computer comprises a computer housing that is separate from the image capture device housing.

53.   The software system of claim 52 wherein the altering comprises adding image adjustment modules encapsulating image adjustment functions to the software system.

54.   The software system of claim 52 wherein the altering comprises changing the functional order of image adjustment modules operably coupled to one another in the software system.

55.   A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable code for the software system of claim 52.

56.   (canceled)

57.   (canceled)

58.   (canceled)

59.   A computer-readable storage medium having instructions encoded thereon which, when executed on a target computer, cause the target computer to perform a method of automatically processing digital images, the method comprising:

passing a request to acquire a digital image file from an automatic image analysis and adjustment service in the target computer to an external interface coupled to an image capture device, wherein the image capture device is selected from the group consisting of: a digital camera, a scanner, and a digital video camera;

acquiring the digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device by a connection selected from the group consisting of a wired connection and a wireless connection, the target computer having an application programming interface that facilitates transfer of digital image files from digital

image data source devices to the target computer, the application programming interface comprising a member function configured to retrieve the digital image file from the image capture device;

at the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device, analyzing image data from the digital image file; and

at the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device, adjusting the image data from the digital image file based at least in part on the analysis of the image data;

wherein the analyzing and the adjusting are performed automatically at the target computer that is separate from and connected to the image capture device, and wherein the analyzing and the adjusting are initiated by the acquiring of the digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer without further input from the user; and

wherein the image capture device comprises an image capture device housing, and wherein the target computer comprises a computer housing that is separate from the image capture device housing."

Allowable Subject Matter

4.   Claims 1, 3 – 16, 18, 20 – 23, 25, 28, 29, 31 – 34, 36 – 45, 47 – 49, 52 – 55 and 59 (now respectively renumbered 1 – 45) are allowed.

5.   The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior discloses a camera and a corresponding method, where a scene is captured as an archival image, with the camera set in an initial capture configuration. Then, a plurality of parameters of the scene are evaluated. The parameters are matched to one or more of a plurality of suggested capture configurations to define a suggestion set. User input designating one of the suggested capture configurations of the suggestion set is accepted and the camera is set to the corresponding capture configuration for subsequent image capture.

However, the closest prior does not teach or fairly suggest where in the camera and corresponding method where an image capture device housing and a computer housing are separate devices, further wherein a request is passed, to acquire a digital image file, from an automatic image analysis and adjustment service in the target computer to an external interface coupled to an image capture device, further wherein the target computer has an application programming interface that facilitates transfer of digital image files from digital image data source devices to the target computer, where the application programming interface comprises a member function configured to retrieve the digital image file from the image capture device; and finally wherein the analyzing and the adjusting are performed automatically at the target computer are initiated by the acquiring of the first digital image file from the image capture device to the target computer without further input from the user.

6.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's

supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on 571.272.7593. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Justin P. Misleh/
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2622
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